OCCURRENCE OF A SAWFLY (ACANTHOLYDA ERYTHROCEPHALA L.) IN NEW JERSEY

In mid-June of 1937, a nursery inspector of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Mr. C. E. Cobb, noted defoliation of several acres of 5 to 12 foot red and Austrian pines (*Pinus resinosa, P. nigra*) in a nursery at Franklin Lakes (Oakland), New Jersey. Some few larvæ were taken and these were identified at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station as *Itycorsia zappei* Rohw. A note of the occurrence of this insect was forwarded to the Insect Pest Survey of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, appearing in the Insect Pest Survey Bulletin, vol. 17, No. 7, September 1, 1937. In observing the insect the writer was puzzled by the fact that the larvæ had completed their growth and were entering the soil at least a month before *Itycorsia zappei* is known to enter the soil. Accordingly, the writer pointed out the infestation to entomologists of the Division of Forest Insects Laboratory at Morristown, New Jersey. They, in turn, pointed out a 40 foot white pine (*Pinus strobus*) at Convent Station (Morristown), New Jersey which they had been keeping under observation and which seemed to be similarly infested. Larvæ were taken from both sites, reared to adults and kindly identified by G. A. Sandhouse in April, 1938 as *Acantholyda erythrocephala* (L.), an insect which had been taken in the United States only once before. On May 7, 1925 F. F. Smith and A. B. Wells took two specimens, both males, from a nursery at Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania.[1]

On June 1 of 1938 at which time the larvæ of this insect were feeding on the needles of the pines, a spray of lead arsenate was applied from an autogiro to the Oakland infestation. Practically 100 per cent kill was obtained. Since that time, however, the insect has been taken in many locations in the State, as far south as New Brunswick, and as far north as the northern-most corner of the State. Larvæ have also been taken as far west as Flemington and as far east as Alpine in New Jersey. No more serious infestations have been discovered, but it does appear that the insect is widely distributed in this State.—F. A. Soraci.

[1] Rohwer, S. A. Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. 17 (7), 173–174. 1927.